

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 03743 101916Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01 /075 W

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P 101559Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8716

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 3743

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PIN LI

SUBJECT: PRINCE BROWNE TRIAL

REF: STATE 133854

1. FOLLOWING TESTIMONY DEFENSE WITNESSES, BROWNE, EPARDEH AND SAYDEE WERE FOUND GUILTY ON JUNE 23. JURY DELIBERATED OVER ONE HOUR. DEFENSE SUBSEQUENTLY FILED MOTION FOR RETRIAL WHICH WAS DENIED. ON JUNE 30 JUDGE LEWIS DELIVERED VERDICT: THREE DEFENDANTS TO BE HANGED ON AUGUST 3 UNTIL QTE DEAD, DEAD, DEAD UNQTE.

2. DEFENSE HAS SUBMITTED APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT WHOSE NEXT SESSION IN OCTOBER. SENTENCE IS TO BE COMMUTED UNTIL AFTER APPEAL HEARD.

3. COMMENT: TRIAL HAS FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE PATTERN TO DATE, ALTHOUGH SOME OBSERVERS EXPECTED SENTENCE TO MERELY LIFE IMPRISONMENT. SCENARIO CAN ONLY BE GUESSED AT; GENERAL EXPECTATION IS SUPREME COURT WILL UPHOLD CONVICTION, BUT THAT PRESIDENT WILL ISSUE STAY OF EXECUTION. UNLIKE TUBMAN, WHO NEVER HAD ANYONE EXECUTED DURING LONG TERM OF OFFICE, TOLBERT HAD FOUR INDIVIDUALS HANGED FOR MURDER AT BEGINNING OF PRESIDENCY, APPARENTLY AS DETERRENT TO OTHERS. EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY FOR BROWNE ET AL, HOWEVER, WOULD BE POPULAR MOVE, DISPLAYING PRESIDENTIAL MERCY, WISDOM, ETC. MANFULL

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PAGE 02 MONROV 03743 101916Z

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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